



## INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY:

*Safeguarding  
Hoosiers by  
Planning,  
Preparing and  
Responding*

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# THE HOOSIER RESPONDER

Volume 2, Issue 9

SEPTEMBER 2006

## Emergency Response Professionals Honored

Members of Indiana's emergency medical services received recognition for contributions to their professions and communities during an awards ceremony in Indianapolis last weekend. The ceremony, part of the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual

Emergency Response Conference sponsored by the Indiana Department of

Homeland Security (IDHS) and the American Heart Association, honored emergency medical technicians, dispatchers, fire departments, paramedics, emergency physicians, and hospitals from around Indiana.

"Tonight we honor not only the dedication and professionalism of the men and women of emergency medical services but also the invaluable service they pro-



Above: Harrison County Hospital EMS personnel earned numerous awards this year, including EMT-Basic of the Year, Ambulance Provider Public Relations Award, and first place in all three categories of the Governor's Cup Ambulance Service Provider Competition.

vide to communities across Indiana," said Mike Garvey, Deputy Director of IDHS' Division of Fire and Building Safety. "They did not enter their respective professions for glory or recognition but I am certain the individuals whose lives they touch consider them heroes."

Those recognized this year include:

### DISPATCHER OF THE YEAR

Kathy Shively,  
Whitley County EMS  
(Columbia City)

### EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN-BASIC OF THE YEAR

Katie Miller, Harrison  
County Hospital EMS  
(Corydon)

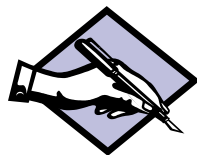
### EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN-BASIC ADVANCED OF THE YEAR

Marks Snodgrass, Eli Lilly &  
Company (Indianapolis)

### FRANK D. GILBERT, JR. MEMO- RIAL PARAMEDIC OF THE YEAR

Doug McGee, Pendleton Emer-  
gency Ambulance Service  
(Pendleton)

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## From the Desk of Director Dietz

The strategic vision of Indiana found in the Indiana Strategy for Homeland Security supplies federal, state and local partners with eight clear and comprehensive goals to achieve the long-term vision of homeland security in Indiana. The guiding principles for all homeland security funding allocations are defined in this strategy. Together, with your assistance, we are moving toward achieving many of the objectives laid out in that document, despite decreasing

federal funds to achieve those objectives.

Terrorism preparedness and response funding has been on a sharp decline since the FY2005 grant cycle. In FY 2005 and FY 2006, Indiana received an average reduction of 45 percent in the overall award from US DHS. IDHS has worked tirelessly to ensure great care and stewardship of the funding by targeting the limited resources to the areas and sectors with

the greatest risk. IDHS is working closely with our partners and stakeholders in allocating these funds to best achieve the state's preparedness needs.

IDHS started the prioritization process for funding with the release of the FY 2006 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) guidance in December 2005. The application process was drastically different

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## IIFC Announces Executive Staff

Monte McKee, Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center (IIFC) Executive Director, announced new members of the IIFC Executive Staff this month. The new staff members are Bryant Lucas, Bob Hipple and Doug Johnson.

According to McKee, "Each member of the staff brings a wealth of experience to the fusion center effort and is a key player in the information and intelligence sharing process in Indiana."

Bryant Lucas will serve as the IIFC Assistant Executive Director. A 19-year veteran of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Law Enforcement Division and DNR lieutenant since 2001, Lucas served as a conservation officer as well as an investigator and an undercover officer. Additionally,

he participated in training events and law enforcement operations with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Canadian Wildlife Service and various state and local law enforcement agencies around the nation.

Bob Hipple will serve as the IIFC Operations Commander. An Indianapolis Police Department (IPD) Sergeant, Hipple will oversee the day-to-day operations of the center and provide guidance and insight to the command staff from an operational perspective. With over 14-years with IPD, he most recently assisted in developing the Metro Terrorism and Threat Analysis Unit. Hipple holds a bachelors degree in Criminal Justice from Indiana University and is a master's candidate in the Intelligence

Program at Michigan State University.

Doug Johnson will serve as the Statewide Liaison Commander assuming responsibility for establishing the IIFC liaison program within the Indiana police, public safety and private sector communities. Johnson, a 15-year veteran of law enforcement, is an IPD officer who started his career with the Elkhart Police Department where he achieved the rank of captain and served as the commander of the patrol division. He is a graduate of Indiana State University and holds a bachelors degree in Criminology. Johnson is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy and is an Army Reservist, having served in Europe, Afghanistan and Africa.



Above: Top to bottom, Bryant Lucas, Bob Hipple and Doug Johnson join the IIFC Executive Staff.

*The mission of the IIFC, a division of IDHS, is to collect, evaluate, analyze and disseminate information and intelligence data regarding criminal and terrorist activity in the State of Indiana while following Fair Information Practices to ensure the rights and privacy of citizens. For more information or to report suspicious activity, contact the IIFC at 1-866-400-IIFC (4432), fax 317-234-4749 or at iifc@iifc.in.gov.*

## NIMS Corner...

[Click here to visit the U.S. DHS NIMS website!](#)

[Click here to visit the IDHS NIMS website!](#)

### NIMCAST: MAJOR DEADLINE LOOMS

Beginning October 1, 2006, all state, county, and local entities **must** attain NIMS compliance as a condition for federal preparedness funding assistance. As part of the FY06 NIMS compliance requirements, counties must submit a NIMS baseline assessment of their jurisdictions. Counties can accomplish this baseline assessment through the web-

based National Incident Management Capability Assessment Tool (NIMCAST).

Although all counties have at least one active NIMCAST account, numerous counties have yet to complete roll-ups. If the NIMCAST requirement is not complete and letter of certification submitted by September 30, 2006, these counties are in danger

of losing their homeland security funding and placing the entire state's homeland security funding in peril.

DHS commends those counties in full compliance. The department urges counties to complete their rollup of local agency accounts and submit their certification letter as soon as possible.

*For more information on NIMS policy, contact David Barrabee, Homeland Security Planner, IDHS Division of Planning, at 317-233-6116 or [dbarrabee@dhs.in.gov](mailto:dbarrabee@dhs.in.gov). For NIMCAST technical information please contact Yolanda Hoskins, NIMCAST assistant, at 317-234-4466 or [nimcast@dhs.in.gov](mailto:nimcast@dhs.in.gov).*



## September Spotlight...

### PARKE COUNTY EMA

Darla Eslinger is the Director for the Parke County Emergency Management Agency. She is in her thirteenth year of service with the agency. Darla began her career in emergency services with the Parke County Sheriff's Department where she worked for eight years before working three and a half years in county government. She then joined the Parke County EMA as the office manager. Darla accepted the appointment as Director of Parke County EMA in 2001. With her years of experience overall, Darla possesses a wealth of knowledge in the emergency management field.

Parke County, along with Fountain and Vermillion counties, is involved in the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP). The program addresses the storage, threat and chemical neutralization of nerve agent

VX stored at the Newport Chemical Depot in Vermillion County. Darla served on the CSEPP National Workshop Planning Committee in 2006, and will continue her duties on this committee in 2007. Parke County EMA works closely with the other two CSEPP counties to insure the communities around the Newport Chemical Depot are well prepared to respond to an incident at the depot or any other hazard.

#### *Parke County EMA Progress:*

- Worked hard to ensure their agency has the necessary tools and interoperability for response efforts, including:
  - A state of the art emergency operations center.
  - Countywide 800 MHz radio system with a back up dispatch center in the EMA office.
  - Indoor alert radios and an

outdoor warning system with sirens to alert the public in case of an event at the Newport Chemical Depot or severe weather.

- Combined the equipment obtained with rigorous planning efforts to make sure plans are in place to maximize the utility of the equipments.
- Worked to ensure mutual aid agreements are in place with other jurisdictions and the state, if outside assistance is needed.
- Obtained funding from the Parke County Community Foundation to provide CPR training for county staff and local businesses and purchase smoke detectors, which the Volunteer Fire Departments installed for residents who did not have or could not afford to purchase one.



*Darla Eslinger, Director*  
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### LAWRENCE COUNTY EMA

Valerie Luchauer is the Director of the Lawrence County Emergency Management Agency. Prior to accepting the position in March 1991, she served as the assistant EMA director. During her tenure with the Lawrence County EMA, Valerie completed numerous job relevant training classes, including the Professional Development Series. Additionally, she teaches numerous NIMS classes to her fellow responders in Lawrence County. Valerie is currently serving as Homeland Security District 8 Planning Council Coordinator. Thanks to the support and cooperation of her fellow responders, District 8 has a district plan, exercise,

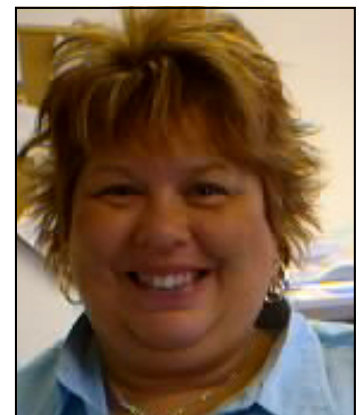
website, and response team.

#### *Lawrence County EMA Progress:*

- Utilized Homeland Security Grant Program funds to:
  - Purchase a mobile command unit.
  - Create a decontamination unit.
  - Assist local emergency response teams in terrorism preparedness efforts.
  - Acquire needed portable generators.
- With the assistance of local amateur radio enthusiasts, provides severe weather information to local law enforcement agencies, who

then pass it on to the public.

- Offers a severe weather class with the National Weather Service every spring.
- Created a Persons with Disabilities Task Force to incorporate the needs of those with disabilities into the county's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. This active Task Force identified three areas to concentrate on: identifying individuals with disabilities, special sheltering needs, and specialized transportation needs.
- Created a Pandemic Flu Task Force to continually update the Lawrence County Pandemic Flu Plan.



*Valerie Luchauer, Director*  
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Management Agency  
Lawrence County Public Safety  
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## IDHS' Dispatch Section: *Just a Phone Call Away*

Within minutes, one simple phone call can turn an otherwise routine day into a hectic one. To the staff members within the Dispatch Section of the IDHS Division of Emergency Response's Emergency Response Branch this is just part of the job.

The Dispatch Section serves as the first point of contact for local officials who want to report events of significance or seek state assistance post disasters such as severe weather, fires, or HazMat incidents. Once such a call comes in to IDHS' Emergency Operations Center (EOC) dispatch center, often a domino type effect follows with dispatchers following a standard operating procedure to notify pertinent IDHS and state agency personnel. The role of the dispatchers, therefore, is not to make response decisions but to serve as an important reporting function.

Unless an event requires additional assistance, typically only one of the IDHS dispatchers, which are Mike Davis, Michael Demuth, Gina McGuire, Arlie Kelly, Rusty Kirts, and acting supervisor Ron Hudson, is on duty. While on duty, a dispatcher must monitor over 20 phone lines and 36 radio talk groups, test the center's communication systems, send out notices



*Above: Dispatcher Rusty Kirts prepares to go off duty as fellow dispatcher Mike Davis (background) begins his shift in the IDHS EOC Dispatch Center.*

to IDHS employees, monitor weather conditions throughout the state, and keep track of IDHS employees checking in and out of duty. Outside normal state government hours, the center also receives calls for the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's emergency reporting line and, until it is fully operational, the Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center.

Currently, the dispatch center also maintains capabilities to communicate over high frequency short-wave radios, microwave telephone systems, a satellite radio frequency, and 155 MHz and 800 MHz radio frequencies. Although

the goal remains for all responders in Indiana to convert to the 800 MHz system (Project Hoosier SAFE-T), the center maintains the 155 MHz to ensure, in the meantime, IDHS is able to communicate with responders not yet on the 800 MHz.

The IDHS dispatch center also monitors the National Warning System (NAWAS) and the Newport Area Notification System (NANS). NAWAS is a communications system originally designed during the Cold War era to provide notification of a nuclear attack. The system has terminals in each state EOC now used for emergency management coordination and

response. NANS is the communications system used to notify agencies located off the Newport Depot of any events that occur on post.

The dispatchers report that, on occasion, their days take a humorous turn due to random calls from individuals who have obtained the center's number to report a dead bird in their yard or a raccoon loose in their attic. The dispatchers take these types of calls in stride and re-direct the callers to a more appropriate agency.

Regardless of the type of event, the IDHS dispatch center stands by ready to receive requests from local officials in need of resources or assistance that exceeds their ability to respond effectively. Through the center's actions, it initiates response by state agencies, and potentially federal agencies as well, to a myriad of events.

*Local officials can contact the IDHS EOC Dispatch Center by calling 800-669-7362 or e-mailing [dispatch@dhs.in.gov](mailto:dispatch@dhs.in.gov).*

## *E-Filing Soon Available for Customers of IDHS Plan Review Section*

Electronic filing (e-filing) with the IDHS Division of Fire and Building Safety's Plan Review Section will soon become easier. The current method requires applicants to send an e-mail to the section with application information and drawing files. After submission, the Plan Review Section then

sends the applicant an e-mail on associated costs so they can submit proper payment to IDHS.

The new method will allow customers to use the IDHS website to submit all the proper information and payment directly. In one on-line transaction, applicants can

submit all application information, payments, and upload their drawing files. Upon filing, applicants will receive a project number. By streamlining the process, IDHS hopes applicants find it easier to file and track their projects. Limited testing of the new process will take place yet this fall.

Few states possess the capabilities we have right now, making Indiana a leader in governmental e-filing. By filing building projects online, we are continuing to move further ahead.

## Advancing GIS Promotes Benefits of System

A comprehensive Geographic Information Systems (GIS), or electronic mapping technology, is only possible through partnerships. Regardless of the technology applied, we must know where something is before we can even attempt to map it. In order to locate items in Indiana, IDHS is increasingly reliant on partners across the state.

The first, and ongoing, step in developing a GIS in Indiana is determining the most likely group keeping track of a class of sites. For example, who can easily identify where to locate a particular school, hospital, or levee? IDHS is continuously developing partnerships statewide through this process.

IDHS took the second step in building our GIS capabilities with the statewide aerial photography project during the spring of 2005. The contiguous photos of the entire state

enabled all of our partners in local, county, state and federal government to map their sites of interest with consistent quality and accuracy. This project taught us that the easier we made it for our partners to keep track of "their" sites, the easier it is for IDHS to find those sites.

The third step for IDHS is to promote the usefulness of the electronic mapping to our partners. A current initiative is procurement of laptops to access GIS data in the field by our local partners. At the same time, IDHS is enhancing the capabilities of field mapping by upgrading free viewer software delivered to local agencies with the 2005 aerial photography. Additional enhancements under development include acquiring the abilities to record locations and observations with the use of global positioning systems, and to enter way-points for destinations so field staff can

see both where they are and where they need to be against a backdrop of the 2005 aerial photography to connect the dots by roadways.

Future IDHS plans for GIS include making data available in near or real-time by implementing web-based publication



Above: This shot of Memorial Stadium on Indiana University's Bloomington campus is an example the outstanding color and resolution from the 2005 aerial photography project.

of data between partners at all levels of government. A residual benefit of this type of publication for local governments who decide to share data with IDHS is there is little effort needed to share data for other purposes, such as business development. In addition to using current maps for planning and response purposes, the state can also benefit in the same manner.

In fact, the Indiana Economic Development Corporation used the 2005 aerial photography to attract the new Honda plant to Greensburg.

IDHS is mapping more than the landscape with GIS. We are mapping new partnerships.

For more information on GIS, contact Roger Koelpin, GIS/Critical Infrastructure Planner, IDHS Division of Planning at 317-232-0181 or [rkoelpin@dhs.in.gov](mailto:rkoelpin@dhs.in.gov).

## IDHS Employees Receive Governor's Award

Once again, IDHS employees were among those honored with a Governor's Public Service Achievement Award. During this year's second round awards, IDHS' Major Monte McKee and Roger Koelpin received the award along with 36 other state employees.

Major McKee received the award in recognition for his work in establishing the Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center (IIFC). The center will contribute to the security of Indiana's citizens and become a benchmark for the establishment of similar intelligence-sharing centers throughout the country.

Major McKee developed the concept of the IIFC based on guidance from US DHS and lessons learned from other

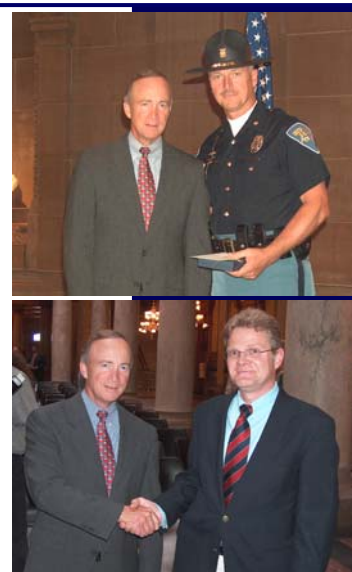
states working on similar concepts. With the assistance of IDHS, the Counter-Terrorism and Security Council and the Indiana State Police, he secured the necessary executive order and enabling legislation earlier this year to establish the IIFC. Major McKee also worked with IDHS to identify and budget \$1.85 million in federal funding and in-kind salary support of an additional \$1 million for the IIFC.

"The Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center is a very exciting project. It is an honor to receive this award on behalf of the various agencies responsible for the development and implementation of the IIFC," stated McKee.

Koelpin received his award in recognition of his accomplishment in obtaining the nation's

first complete, statewide aerial photography effort. For the first time, state and local emergency management officials have consistent, high quality map data in their possession for use in all phases of emergency management. Throughout the \$7.6 million project, Koelpin provided top quality information for emergency management, while realizing a cost savings of nearly \$2.25 million for Indiana taxpayers. The aerial photography project also facilitates economic development, transportation and agricultural efforts. It was used to attract Honda to Indiana.

According to Koelpin, "The statewide aerial photography project is a monumental step forward for the state and I am honored to be recognized as part of the project."



Above: Governor Daniels congratulates IDHS employees Major Monte McKee (top) and Roger Koelpin on receiving the Governor's Public Service Achievement Award.

## IDHS Staff Attends IABO/FIAI Annual Business Meeting

In July, building and fire inspectors from throughout Indiana gathered for this year's Indiana Association of Building Officials / Fire Inspectors Association of Indiana's (IABO/FIAI) Annual Business meeting. A five-day event, it was the group's largest and most comprehensive meetings to date and included training classes and a trade show. The annual meeting, designed to inform building and fire inspectors on changes in codes, construction, and emergency systems found in new construction, took place in Evansville.

Training opportunities offered at this year's meeting included: firestop systems / smoke protection, fire-blocking, the use of rigid foam in both wall and roof assemblies, commercial kitchen exhaust hoods, accordion style sliding fire doors, solving means of egress issues, exit doors and assemblies, fire sprinkler systems, roofing



*Above: Members of the IDHS Division of Fire and Building Safety gather for a photo at this year's IABO/FIAI Annual Business Meeting in Evansville. IDHS personnel had a strong presence at this year's meeting.*

design, deck design, fire pump testing along with classes on construction law and the manufactured housing codes.

Among the attendees in training sessions were Code Enforcement and Plan Review Branch Director, Don Bradley, and Code Enforcement Section Director, Shelly Wakefield, both from the IDHS Division of Fire and Building Safety. Bradley, also the State

Building Commissioner, and Wakefield attended the sessions to display the importance and priority the department places on local inspectors training.

This year's meeting also offered for the first time an International Code Council, Fire Inspector I certification exam. For several months, IDHS Fire Inspector James Straw helped fellow staff

members and local inspectors prepare for the exam. IDHS is proud to announce Division of Fire and Building Safety employees Don LeBrun and Carl Deel were among those who passed the Fire Inspector I exam.

In addition to taking examinations, the 18 management staff and field inspectors from IDHS' Division of Fire and Building Safety spent an average of 16 hours in training classes during the IABO/FIAI Annual Business meeting.

The meeting offered not only training opportunities but also offered IDHS staff a setting to network with both local building and fire inspection professionals from around the state. By listening to the concerns of local building and fire inspectors IDHS, staff can work to solve problems to make improvements for all inspectors in Indiana.

## Arson Prevention Tips

Arson fires are not always set from inside structures. Some arsonist set fires just outside a building, which then spread to adjacent buildings.

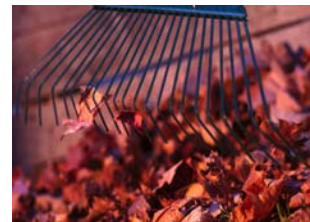
Following are some suggestions from IDHS' Division of Fire and Building Safety on how to deter and reduce incidents of arson:

- Keep leaves, firewood, overgrown brush and shrubbery and other combustibles away from buildings.
- Keep doors and windows locked when a building is unoccupied. Board up abandoned buildings. Do not use double cylinder deadbolt locks without keeping a key nearby, bars without quick release mechanisms, or

other security provisions that could trap a person in a building with a deadly fire.

- Store all flammable liquids such as; paints, gasoline, and mowers in an approved storage location: locked cabinets, locked storage units, and locked garages (prevent access to kids). Also, keep away from heat sources such as furnaces and any type of heaters.

If you suspect suspicious activity near houses or other buildings or suspect an arson crime, contact your local fire or police department. You can also call the Arson Hotline at 800-382-4628 for up to \$5,000 reward.



*Keep leaves and trash away from buildings.*



*Store flammable liquids in appropriate storage units and away from heat sources.*



## Emergency Response Professionals Honored

*cont'd from page 1*

### MEDICAL DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

*Dr. Charles Miramonti,  
Wishard Hospital EMS  
(Indianapolis)*

### DAVID J. EDWARDS MEMORIAL PRIMARY INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR

*Judith Hallam, Wishard Ambulance Service (Indianapolis)*

### BASIC LIFE SUPPORT NON-TRANSPORT PROVIDER OF THE YEAR

*Washington Fire Department  
(Washington)*

### LARRY W. MEYERS MEMORIAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN BASIC PROVIDER AWARD

*Albany EMS (Albany)*

### EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN BASIC-ADVANCED PROVIDER OF THE YEAR

*Southwestern EMS (Jasonville)*

### PARAMEDIC PROVIDER OF THE YEAR

*Perry County Memorial Hospital EMS (Tell City)*

### OTIS R. BOWEN HEROIC RESCUE

*Ossian Fire Rescue (Ossian)  
Wells County EMS (Bluffton)*

### AMBULANCE PROVIDER PUBLIC RELATIONS AWARD

*Harrison County Hospital EMS  
(Corydon)*

### EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE FOR CHILDREN AWARD

*Troy Nicholson, Harrison County Hospital EMS  
(Corydon)*

### GOVERNOR'S CUP AMBULANCE SERVICE PROVIDER COMPETITION WINNERS:

#### *Paramedic*

First Place

Troy Nicholson & Jeremy McKim, Harrison County Hospital EMS (Corydon)

Second Place

Vito Palumbo & Grant Roberts, Elkhart Fire Department (Elkhart)

Third Place

Tony Doyle & Carl Wireman, Multi-Township EMS (Warsaw)

#### *Basic-Advanced Emergency Medical Technician*

First Place

Melissa McKim & Colin Boreham, Harrison County Hospital EMS (Corydon)

Second Place

Jeff White & Brian Miller, Huntington County EMS (Huntington)

Third Place

Bennii Shore & Jennifer Rustin, City of Lawrence Fire Department (Lawrence)

#### *Basic Emergency Medical Technician*

First Place

Joe Squier & Katie Miller, Harrison County Hospital EMS (Corydon)

Second Place

George Michels & Robert Gaskill, Schererville Fire Department (Schererville)

Third Place

Chad Haniford & Lauren Van de Voort, Statewide Transfer Ambulance Service (Crawfordsville)

## From the Desk of Director Dietz

*cont'd from page 1*

from FY 2005 and required IDHS, in partnership with numerous state and local entities, to approach funding proposals from an entirely different perspective. The FY 2006 application was submitted with 13 funding proposals that encompassed all reasonable and eligible funding areas within the Indiana Strategy for Homeland Security.

With notification of Indiana's SHSGP award on June 30, 2006, IDHS began assigning dollars to these funding proposals by working with internal and external partners. The allocation of Indiana's FY 2006 SHSGP award was derived after careful review of what was allowable, what was practical and how to best leverage the limited resources and achieve the greatest level of preparedness and response within the state. IDHS focused funding on key initiatives such as advancing the statewide interoperable communications network, hardening critical infrastructure, enhancing regionalization efforts including planning and

response, expanding the existing GIS capabilities within the state and ensuring a quality and comprehensive statewide training and exercise program.

Teamwork is purposely the first goal set forth in the Indiana Strategy for Homeland Security. In prior grant years and the current FY 2006 allocation, we have worked to enhance and encourage teamwork throughout the state. Because of this, first responders in Indiana are working together more effectively than ever. Additionally, through targeted allocations for interoperable communications, district planning council development, regional response and mass casualty teams, GIS enhancement, training and exercise, Indiana will realize increased teamwork among local jurisdictions and the state when handling a weapons of mass destruction event.

Through teamwork, Indiana will achieve demonstrable and quantifiable success in preparedness.

*J. E. Dietz*

## Mark Your Calendar!

### September 30

IDHS' Mari Hulman George Search & Rescue Training Center Open House  
(Camp Atterbury)

### October 25

EMA Directors Conference Call

### October 30

Board of Firefighting Personnel Standards/Education Meeting  
(Indianapolis)

### November 29

EMA Directors Conference Call



Check out IDHS Division of Training's calendar for all training opportunities at:  
[www.in.gov/dhs/training](http://www.in.gov/dhs/training)



# Announcements

- To register to receive The Hoosier Responder via e-mail, [CLICK HERE!](#)
- When will the 2006 fire act grant information be announced?: The Assistance to Firefighters Grants' 2005 reauthorization required that the Department of Homeland Security convene an annual meeting with members of the national fire service for the purpose of recommending criteria for awarding grants. Also, the reauthorization required that each year, prior to making any grants, DHS must publish in the Federal Register 1) a description of the process for applying for grants, 2) the criteria for awarding grants, and 3) an explanation of any differences between the national fire service's recommendations and the criteria used by DHS. The Notice for the 2006 program year was published in the Federal Register on September 6, 2006, and it signals the commencement of the processing of the 2006 award cycle. The Notice can be viewed at <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2006/pdf/E6-14759.pdf>. Awards are expected to be issued and announced in about 4 weeks, continuing through the calendar year.
- To learn more about the IDHS Mari Hulman George Search & Rescue Training Center Open House on September 30, [CLICK HERE!](#)



Congratulations to IDHS employees Judy Potts, Diane Mack, Michelle Milliken, and Joanna Cornwell for their fourth place finish in the second annual Paddle Battle, a paddle boat competition between state agencies held on the canal in downtown Indianapolis.



*Indiana Department of Homeland Security  
Safeguarding Hoosiers by  
Planning, Preparing and Responding*

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*The Hoosier Responder* is a publication of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. Please direct any questions or comments to the IDHS Public Information and Outreach Office at 317-232-6632.